



# NEWS RELEASE

## PRESS OFFICE

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## ***SBA FUNDS GRANT PROGRAM FOR VERY SMALL BUSINESSES***

**WASHINGTON** – America's smallest businesses will now have access to more training and technical assistance to help them start or grow a business under a new program funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the agency announced today.

Under the PRIME program – Program for Investment in Microentrepreneurs – the SBA provided federal funds to community-based, regional and national organizations that in turn will offer training and technical assistance to low-income and very low-income entrepreneurs with small businesses of five employees or less.

**“The PRIME program was created to help the smallest of small businesses. These are entrepreneurs at the most basic stage of starting a business and who typically require the greatest amount of committed service and guidance,”** SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto said. **“In order to succeed, they require training and technical assistance that must be accessible.”**

While the U.S. Department of Commerce has estimated that more than two million businesses in the United States are operated by low-income and very low-income entrepreneurs, other studies indicate that only a mere fraction of this population receives business assistance. The major focus of the PRIME program is business-based assistance to precisely these low-income and very low-income entrepreneurs who lack sufficient training and education to gain access to capital to establish and expand their own small businesses.

The SBA has selected 69 organizations in 28 states to provide this service (see attached list). During this inaugural year of the PRIME program, SBA is focusing on economically distressed areas.

Also under the PRIME program, the SBA provided 15 grants to improve the delivery of services to very small businesses by organizations that provide training and technical assistance. Two other organizations received funding to conduct research and development on how to improve these services.

Entrepreneurs and small business owners who may qualify to receive training or technical assistance under the PRIME program should contact a local SBA district office listed at [www.sba.gov/services](http://www.sba.gov/services).

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<b>Organizations</b>	<b>Location</b>	
E.C. Schlarb Foundation	Birmingham	AL
AZ Council for Econo Conversion	Tucson	AZ
Interfaith Service Bureau	Sacramento	CA
El Pajaro CDC	Watsonville	CA
CHARO CDC	Los Angeles	CA
Jefferson Econ Dev Institute	Mt Shasta	CA
Renaissance Entrepshp. Center	San Francisco	CA
Valley Econ Dev Cntr	Van Nuys	CA
Women's Enterp. Dev Corp	Long Beach	CA
Women's Econ Ventures	Santa Barbara	CA
Asian Pacific Islander Small Bus Program (LTSC Corsort)	Los Angeles	CA
North Coast Small Business Resource Center	Crescent City	CA
Vermont Slauson Econ Dev Corp	Los Angeles	CA
Pacific Asian Consortium (PACE)	Los Angeles	CA
West Enterprise Center, Inc.	Ukiah	CA
Women's Initiatives for Self Employment	San Francisco	CA
New America Foundation	Berkeley	CA
Colorado Capital Initiatives	Denver	CO
Women's Bus. Cntr, Inc.	Washington	DC
H St. Finance Corp	Washington	DC
Lee Cnty Emp. & Econ Dev.. Corp.	Fort Myers	FL
Community Investments Inc.	Pensacola	FL
Florida Atlantic University	Ft Lauderdale	FL
Cobb Microenterprise Council	Kennesaw	GA
Atlanta One Stop Capital Shop	Atlanta	GA
Maui Econ Opportunity & Bus Dev Corp	Wailuku	HI
Pacific Gateway	Honolulu	HI
Institute for Social & Econo Dev	Coralville	IA
Ida-Ore Planning and Dev Assoc. Inc.	Boise	ID
Community Ventures Corp	Lexington	KY
Center for Women Enterprise	Boston	MA
Jewish Vocational Services	Boston	MA
Western MA Enterprise Fund	Greenfield	MA
Women's Entrepreneurs of Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Community Support for Micro Opportunities	Bangor	ME
Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living	Ann Arbor	MI
Detroit Entrepreneurship Institute	Detroit	MI
Wayne Metro Community Services	Ecorse	MI
University of MO Outreach & Extension SBDC	Columbia	MO
Mountain Microenterprise Fund	Asheville	NC
WESST/NMCDLF	Albuquerque	NM
Taos County Econ Dev Corp	Taos	NM
Worker Ownership Resource Center	Rochester	NY
Rural Opportunities Enterprise Center	Rochester	NY
Women's Housing and Econ Dev Corp	New York	NY
Project Enterprise	New York	NY
Renaissance Econo Dev Corp	New York	NY
Business Outreach Center Network, Inc. (a Consort.)	Brooklyn	NY
Chinatown Manpower Project., Inc.	New York	NY
Alternatives Federal Credit Union	Ithaca	NY
Nat'l Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship	New York	NY
Supporting Council of Preventive Effort	Dayton	OH
WECO FUND Inc.	Cleveland	OH
Community Action Committee of Pike Cnty Inc.	Piketon	OH
Little Dixie Comm Action Agency	Hugo	OK
Oregon Assoc of Min Entrepreneurs	Portland	OR
Oregon Microenterprise Network	Eugene	OR
Philadelphia Commercial Develop. Corp	Philadelphia	PA

Philadelphia Develop. Partnership  
Women's Bus.Dev Cntr  
Economic Ventures, Inc.  
LeMoyne Owen College Community Dev Corp  
Entrepreneurial Guidance and Training, Inc.  
Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce  
ACCION  
Total Action Against Poverty  
People Incorporated  
Shorebank Enterprise Group Pacific  
Appalachian by Design

Philadelphia PA  
Philadelphia PA  
Knoxville TN  
Memphis TN  
Nashville TN  
El Paso TX  
San Antonio TX  
Roanoke VA  
Abingon VA  
Ilwaco WA  
Lewisburg WV

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*For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640. Also, visit the SBA's extensive Web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*

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